MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

Rural District Council of Stoke-upon-Trent,

(Public Health Act, 1875, and Local Government Act, 1894,)

FOR THE YEAR 1900.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of submitting my Annual Report of the Rural District of Stoke-on-Trent, with the mortality statistics for the last year ending December 31st, 1900.

During this period there have been *three* epidemics prevalent—Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, and Scarlatina ; so it is not surprising that they were carried into the rural district, considering that these diseases have been so severe in the neighbouring towns.

In my opinion many cases of Diphtheria notified were patients who had suffered from Scarlatina at the time, and were affected with *second* attack, or secondary sore throat. It is well known to the profession that persons having once had an attack of Scarlatina, when exposed to a fresh infection, get a Scarlatina Throat, yet think this has been entirely overlooked ; although I have no right in my official capacity to dispute a notification from any medical man.

There has been one house closed as unfit for human habitation.

During the prevalence of so much infectious disease in the whole of Bucknall in the first quarter of the year the Church Schools were closed for a month ; yet after re-opening I asked the Schoolmaster to exclude all children coming from infected homes, which was a necessary precaution ; but it made the statistics of attendances very faulty. Yet it will no doubt interfere very materially with their Government Grants for attendance.

I have made five analyses of water, one for Washerwall, one for Bagnall, one for the Sheep-wash Well, one for Greenfields Well, and the Well at the Tompkin, and the results in every case were found to be satisfactory.

The removal of Excreta and Ashes is not now carried out by contract, but under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. By hiring a man and a cart to do certain districts, instead of as in former years an agreement being made with one farmer for the whole year, it no doubt has been done more effectually ; but there have been occasional delinquencies.

When houses have been inspected, generally the Sanitary Inspector has accompanied me, served notices on the following day upon landlords upon whose premises nuisances were found. Occasionally I have gone by myself when any special object or district required inspection.

The Slaughter Houses have been inspected regularly.

Great attention has been given to the Milk Supply, and two farmers have voluntarily had two cows destroyed that were suffering from grapes or tuberculosis.

Under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1899, the Council have from time to time called in a Veterinary Surgeon to examine cattle that were ill, and were supposed to be graped.

At each monthly Meeting I have presented a report of work done, and one Special Report on the Epidemic of Diphtheria, a copy being sent to the County Council and one to the Local Government Board.

NOTIFICATIONS.

The Voluntary Notifications Act was adopted in this district in 1892, Sections 4 to 9, 13 and 14, also 16 to 20, and Part III. of the Public Health Act, 1890, as is made applicable by Section 50 to the Rural Sanitary District.

One hundred and forty-six Notifications have been received during the year as follows :—

Diphtheria	86	Scarlatina	16	Croup	2
Enteric Fever	6	Measles	32	Erysipelas	4

One case of Enteric Fever was caused by a nuisance at a Workshop, one by a leaky privy at the rear of the premises, one by upturning of old saturated soil, three cases no cause could be ascertained, although the milk supply was investigated, and the water to the premises supplied by the Waterworks Company.

To check the spread of Measles the Schools were closed for a month, from December, 1899, to January. In my opinion it is no good closing any Schools for less time, as it does not give the children time to recover, and they return to their duties only in a sickly condition and debilitated health.

Four cases were removed to the Hospital at Bucknall, of the Joint Hospital Board ; so many were of a very mild character, others were well cared for and cautiously isolated.

BIRTHS.

There were registered 166 Births, at the annual rate of increase of 28·2 per thousand—78 males, 88 females, six being born out of wedlock.

The average rate for the last few years was from 28 to 30 per thousand. The great decrease is not surprising, as the birth-rate has declined all over England.

DEATHS.

During the year ending December 31st, 1900 there were recorded 146 deaths, at an annual rate of mortality of 24·8 per thousand. This is the highest death-rate that has ever occurred in the district in 12 months, but it must be noticed that there has been three epidemics prevalent nine months in the year. Thirty-eight deaths have occurred at the Hospital; these did not belong to the district, and if deducted there would have been only 108 really taken place in the rural district, at a rate of 18·3 per thousand. This is higher than the average, which has been generally 12 to 14 per thousand.

Appended are two tables showing the causes registered. They may be classified as follows :—

Zymotic or Specific Febrile Diseases	65
Constitutional	9
Developmental	15
Local	48
Deaths from Violence	7
Deaths from ill-defined or not specified causes	2
	146

The deaths from violence were seven, two from pit accidents through fall of coal, two from drowning (one at Morton's Pool and one at Berry Hill), one suicide by hanging, one of suffocation by gas in coal pit, and one from scalds. Appended is a table showing the work done in the Sanitary Department, which will show a distinct advancement to former years; 920 houses and premises have been inspected, 54 notices served for sanitary improvements.

The Bakehouses and Slaughter-houses regularly inspected.

JOHN SWIFT WALKER, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

Inspector's Report for Year ending December 31st, 1900.

Houses and Premises Inspected	920
Houses Fumigated after Infectious Disease	125
Notices Served for Sanitary Amendment	54
Nuisances Abated by Verbal Notice	20
Unsanitary Dwelling-houses Closed	1
Manure Heaps Removed	1
Registered Dairies and Cowsheds Inspected every Quarter	66
Bakehouses Inspected every Quarter	3
Slaughter-houses Inspected every Quarter	7
Public Wells Inspected every Month	8
Whitewash Brushes Let out	246
Animals Improperly Kept	4

GILBERT McHARG, *Inspector.*

Births in the Rural District of Stoke-upon-Trent during the Year ending December 31st, 1900.

	Born in Wedlock		Born out of Wedlock	
	Females	Males	Males	Females
Registered in Botteslow		6		
,, Washerwall, Bucknall, and Bagnall	75	79	3	3
Total Number of Births Registered			166	

Rural Sanitary District of Stoke-upon-Trent.

Deaths Registered from all Causes during the Year 1900.

Cause of Death	AGES. Under 3 m'ths	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	75 to 85	85 & upwards	TOTALS
CLASSES													
Specific, Febrile, or Zymotic Diseases ...	2	4	29	26	4	...	2	..	...	..	..	...	65
Constitutional Diseases	1	3	2	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	9
Developmental Diseases	6	7	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	2	3	3	15
Local Diseases	7	12	8	2	...	2	4	9	4	6	1	..	48
Deaths from Violence	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	2	1	1	...	...	7
Deaths from ill-defined and not Specified Causes	...	...	..	..	1	...	...	1	...	.	...	...	2
TOTALS	16	26	40	30	5	3	7	14	5	9	4	3	146
Measles	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	6	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	13
Diphtheria	1	1	21	19	3	...	..	..	...	...	..	..	44
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	..	..	...	...	1	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	1
Other Miasmatic Diseases	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa, Dysentery	1	3	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	3
Erysipelas	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	...	...	...	1
Tabes Mesenterica	...	2	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	2
Tubercular Meningitis, Hydrocephalus ...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	..	..	..	...	...	3
Phthisis	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	3
Premature Birth	6	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Old Age	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	2	3	3	8
Inflammation of Brain or Membranes ...	...	...	...	1	..	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	1
Apoplexy, Softening of Brain, Hemiplegia, Brain Paralysis	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	2	...	...	2
Convulsions	3	5	1	..	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	..	6
Disease of Spinal Cord, Paraplegia, Paralysis Agitans	1	1	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diseases of Organs of Special Sense (*e.g.*, of Ear, Eye, Nose)	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	1
Acute Endocarditis	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	..	...	..	...	...	1
Valvular Diseases of Heart	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	4
Other Diseases of Heart	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	3	.	1	..	...	4
Croup	...	...	1	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	2
Bronchitis	2	2	3	...	...	...	1	..	1	2	1	...	10
Pneumonia	...	1	3	...	...	...	1	1	1	..	...	...	7
Enteritis	1	3	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	3
Obstructive Diseases of Intestine, Hernia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	...	...	..	1
Peritonitis	..	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	..	..	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	1	1	...	...	.	2
Jaundice and other Diseases of Liver ..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	...	..	...	1
Burn, Scald	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drowning	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Suffocation	,	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	..	1
Otherwise	...	...	..	...	...	1	.	1	...	...	...	...	2
Hanging	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	1	..	...	1
Sudden Death (cause not ascertained) ...	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Causes not Specified or ill-defined	..	.	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	..	.	1
TOTALS	16	26	40	30	5	3	6	14	5	9	4	3	146

SUMMARY OF TABLE AS ABOVE.

	No. of Deaths
Miasmatic Diseases	61
Diarrhœal	3
Septic	1
Constitutional Diseases	9
Developmental Diseases	15
Diseases of Nervous System	11
Diseases of Organs of Special Sense ...	1
Carried forward	101

	No. of Deaths
Brought forward	101
Diseases of Circulatory System	9
Diseases of Respiratory System	19
Diseases of Digestive System	8
Accident or Negligence	6
Suicide	1
Ill-defined and Not Specified Causes... ...	2
TOTAL	146

Medical Officer's Annual Report

OF THE

Rural District of Stoke-upon-Trent,

For the Year 1900.

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